WARREN WILSON COLLEGE NC 28778

The Swannanoa Gathering

Fall 2024

Save The Dates for 2025!

Mando & Banjo Week, Fiddle Week	June 29-July 5
Traditional Song Week	July 6-12
Celtic Week	July 13-19
Old-Time Week	July 20-26
Guitar Week, Contemporary Folk Week	July 27-August 2

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our annual newsletter from the Swannanoa Gathering. We hope this finds you in a season full of music and mirth!

Our fall in Swannanoa has been one for the ages. Hurricane Helene ripped through Western North Carolina on September 27. In the Swannanoa Valley, communities were devastated and lives were lost. Thankfully, no students or staff at Warren Wilson College were harmed in the storm, and nearly 100% of the WWC farm's livestock survived despite catastrophic flooding. However, the campus was not immune to the destruction. As I write this newsletter, I can hear the din of work crews outside my window as they labor feverishly to repair extensive damages to our buildings and infrastructure.

The College community's preparations and response throughout the ordeal were inspiring. The students, in particular, have displayed amazing resilience. Without power or water, they had to leave the campus in the days that followed. Finally on October 29, everyone was able to return and resume teaching and learning, and a hopeful spirit abounds.

It is in this spirit that I am thrilled to announce that our beautifully restored campus will be ready to go in time for next summer's 34th Swannanoa Gathering! Last summer's workshops offered many sweet and unforgettable tributes to Jim Magill, the founding director of the Gathering whose visionary leadership guided it to become the premier program of its kind. Looking to the future, we're excited to maintain the momentum of Jim's incredible legacy as well as expand programming in new, exciting directions, including plans for SG weekend workshops every fall and spring (stay tuned!).

We sincerely thank our SG friends for the outpouring of concern in the aftermath of the storm, and we so appreciate your support to help keep the magic going and ensure the Gathering's future as we rebuild from Helene. Along these lines, Doug Orr, President Emeritus of Warren Wilson and founder of the Swannanoa Gathering, is spearheading a new Swannanoa Gathering Legacy Endowment. Any contribution is deeply appreciated. To make one, simply visit www.swangathering.com and click the "Support the Gathering" button on the homepage.

And now, onto the lineup for next summer!

Warmly,

Kevin Kehrberg,
Swannanoa Gathering Interim Director

Coming Next Summer (drumroll please...)

Fiddle Week, June 29-July 5

For this program, coordinator **Andrew Finn Magill** has put together another amazing staff with expertise across an array of styles and rounded out with incredible guitar, upright bass, and cello instructors. For 2025, we have **Darol Anger** (bluegrass fiddle), **Sarah Caswell** (jazz and be-bop), **Joe Craven** (blues and improvisation), **Katie Glassman** (Texas-style), **Evan Price** (swing), **Haley Richardson** (Irish), **Natalya Weinstein** (old-time and klezmer), **Libby Weitnauer** (old-time fiddle), **Zoe Guigeno** (upright bass), **Greg Ruby** (guitar and swing ensemble), and **Duncan Wickel** (cello). For this year's Luthiers Exhibit, violin maker **Joe Thrift** and bow maker **Sarah Bystrom** will be on hand all week for repairs and sales.

Mando & Banjo Week, June 29-July 5

The annual pairing of Fiddle Week with Mando & Banjo Week is always a match made in heaven! We're thrilled to have **Joe K. Walsh** as the new coordinator for this innovative program, whose staff for 2025 comprises top national and international artists representing a variety of styles. Our mandolin instructors will include **David Benedict** (also teaching octave mandolin), **Sharon Gilchrist, Caterina Lichtenberg** (classical), **Mike Marshall, John Reischman, Don Stiernberg** (jazz and swing), and **Maddie Witler** (mandolin and guitar). **Tabitha Agnew Benedict** and **Bill Evans** will teach bluegrass banjo, while **Laura Boosinger** and **Bruce Molsky** will offer classes in old-time banjo. In addition, on-site repairs will be available once again from expert luthier **Lynn Dudenbostel.**

Traditional Song Week July 6-12

Traditional Song Week celebrates the power and diversity of community singing, taught by renowned practitioners and culture bearers from right here in southern Appalachia and as far away as Scotland and Ireland. Coordinator **Matt Watroba** has assembled another top-flight staff to make the magic happen, including **Sheila Kay Adams** (storytelling and meeting house songs), **Kathy Bullock** (gospel choir and abolitionist songs), **Susan Cattaneo** (song-writing), **Josh Goforth** (shape-note singing and music theory), **Sara Grey** (ballad interpretation), **Reggie Harris** (freedom songs), **Cathy Jordan** (Irish love songs and Child ballads), **Zoe Mulford** (community singing and ballad styles), **Fiona Ritchie** (Scottish song), **Sally Rogers** (songs of Jean Ritchie), **Claudia Schmidt** (vocal wellness and harmony), and **Pat Wictor** (vocal improv and guitar).

Celtic Week, July 13-19

Thanks to Jim Magill's longstanding coordination, this program has remained the gold standard of all other Celtic music workshops. With the remarkable staff **Seán Gavin** has put together in his first year as Celtic Week's new coordinator, we couldn't be happier with him continuing that legacy and carrying it to future heights. So far, the 2025 lineup includes **Mari Black** (Scottish fiddle), **Kevin Burke** (fiddle), **Anna Colliton** (bodhrán), **Damien Connolly** (accordion and fiddle), **Kevin Crawford** (flute), **John Doyle** (session guitar), **Josh Dukes** (DADGAD guitar and session class), **Gráinne Hambly** (Irish harp and concertina), **Liz Hanley** (Irish song and fiddle), **Brian Holleran** (flute), **Billy Jackson** (tin whistle and Scottish harp), **Cathy Jordan** (Irish song), **Andrew Finn Magill** (fiddle), **Rebecca McGowan** (dance), **Tony McManus** (finger-style guitar), **Will MacMorran** (drop D guitar and Scottish smallpipes), **Jenna Moynihan** (Scottish fiddle), **Caoimhín Ó Fearghail** (tin whistle), **Eamon O'Leary** (bouzouki), **Patrick Ourceau** (fiddle), **John Skelton** (flute and tin whistle), **Laura Feddersen** (fiddle), and **Cillian Vallely** (uilleann pipes).

Old-Time Music & Dance Week, July 20-26

As a seasoned coordinator of one of the Gathering's flagship programs, **Erynn Marshall** assembles some of the greatest old-time music and dance musicians year in and year out for one of the most un-forgettable weeks you will find anywhere. For 2025, we will have fiddle instructors **Jake Blount, Matt Combs, Judy Hyman, Rhys Jones,** and **Rosie Newton.** The banjo staff includes **Gordy Hinners, Joe Newberry,** and **Travis Stuart.** Teaching guitar will be

Rachel Bryan, Jeff Claus, Phil Jamison, and **Paul Kovac**. Singing classes will be offered by **Sheila Kay Adams** (ballads), **Resa Gibbs** (gospel and country blues), **Ron Pen** (shape-note), and **Carol Elizabeth Jones** (country harmony). Rounding out the staff will be **Carl Jones** (mandolin), **Kevin Kehrberg** (bass), **Jackie Merritt** (harmonica and bones), **Don Pedi** (mountain dulcimer), and clogging instructors

Photo Credit: Erynn Marshall

Leanne E. Smith and **Rodney Sutton**. Additional classes include square dance calling, ukulele, and multiple band labs. **Gina Dilg** will head up our popular Young Old-Time youth program, and **Bruce Greene** and **Bob Carlin** will be among the visiting Master Artists for 2025, with more to come!

Contemporary Folk Week, July 27-August 2

We are very excited to have veteran instructor **Cliff Eberhardt** at the helm as the new coordinator of Contemporary Folk Week. His staff for 2025 represents an unparalleled collective expertise of song craft that has come to define this program, offering inspiration and artistic development for various levels of creativity. It includes songwriters **John Gorka, Don Henry, Buddy Mondlock, Ellis Paul, Kari Sickenberger, Nora Jane Struthers**, and **David Wilcox**. In addition, there will be classes by **Laurie MacAllister** and **Elise Witt** on vocal technique, **Vance Gilbert** on performance, and **Joe Craven** on creative practice.

Guitar Week, July 27-August 2

Coming off last summer's touching memorial to the late **Al Petteway**, who led this pioneering program for years, coordinator **Greg Ruby** continues to build on the legacy of Al in forging a one-of-a-kind workshop

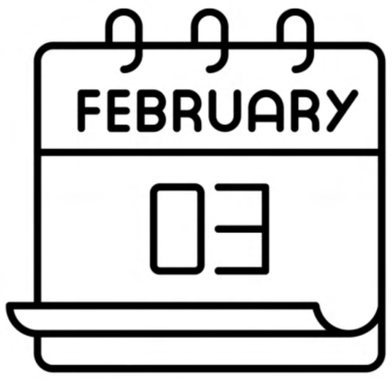
Photo Credit: Grant Root 2024

experience that salutes the amazingly versatile sounds and techniques of the acoustic guitar. The staff for 2025 includes **Howard Alden** (jazz), **Steve Baughman** (fingerstyle and clawhammer guitar), **Ray Chesna** (music theory for guitar), **Jake Eddy** (bluegrass), **Sam Farthing** (Django jazz), **Cesar Garabini** (Brazilian), **Danny Knicely** (bluegrass), **Christie Lenée** (fingerstyle tapping), **Adam Levy** (jazz and improvisation), **Tony McManus** (Celtic), **Mamie Minch** (blues and vocals), and **Cory Seznec** (fingerstyle). Stay tuned for who will be showcasing as part of Guitar Week's Luthiers Exhibit!

We are excited that our programs have so many instructors who have already confirmed to teach. For the most up-to-date staff rosters as we finalize a few remaining selections, please visit the Swannanoa Gathering website.

Registration, fees, etc.

We highly recommend Pre-Registration using the "Register" page at our website (www.swangathering.com) as the quickest and easiest way to get signed-up for our workshops. While this doesn't guarantee someone all of their preferred classes, pre-registration offers the best chance at this, as pre-registrants are permitted to select classes before general registration opens. **The deadline for pre - registration is by end of day on February 3.**



Tuition is $660 per week. The optional housing fee of $565 includes lodging in campus dormitories for six nights and 3 buffet-style meals a day in Warren Wilson College's excellent cafeteria. Some single rooms may be available for an additional $275. Non-students from outside the Asheville area may accompany an enrolled student for the housing fee of $565 and an activities fee of $200. **A deposit of $100 is required** for both student and non-student registration. Deposits are non-refundable and non-transferrable. Full payment at registration is greatly appreciated, and **full payment is required by May 31** to guarantee your class choices.

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